

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. An apparatus for lighting a wearable item, comprising:
a lighting arrangement made up of a flexible electroluminescent wire, a flexible electroluminescent wire attaching means, a power source, a control driver, and a connecting wire,
said control driver comprising a switch to turn the flexible electroluminescent wire on and off, and a circuit means, said connecting wire connecting the control driver and power source to the flexible electroluminescent wire, thereby allowing for electrical current from the power source to reach the flexible electroluminescent wire, said lighting arrangement being attached to the item,
said item having an outer portion and a plurality of seams,
wherein the flexible electroluminescent wire is attached to the outer portion of the item with the flexible electroluminescent wire attaching means.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the circuit means further comprises a function interface including means for causing the flexible luminescent wire to switch on and off intermittently in a random or a predetermined pattern.
3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the control driver further comprises a time-out switch, wherein the current is terminated after a set period of time by the operation of the time-out switch, thereby conserving both the power source and the life of the flexible electroluminescent wire.
4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the flexible electroluminescent wire attaching means is selected from the group consisting of glue, tape, cloth or non-abrasive staples, and stitching.

5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the power source is a DC power supply, and the circuit means includes means for converting DC current supplied by the power supply to an AC current and supplying the AC current to the flexible electroluminescent wire.

6. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the power source is a dry cell battery.

7. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the power source is a rechargeable battery.

8. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the flexible luminescent wire is attached to the item along the item's seams.

9. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the item is a backpack.

10. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the item is a waist pack.

11. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the item is an article of clothing.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein in the article of clothing is a jacket.

13. A method for lighting a wearable item, comprising;

a lighting arrangement made up of a flexible electroluminescent wire, a flexible electroluminescent wire attaching means, a power source, a control driver, and a connecting wire,

said control driver comprising a switch to turn the flexible electroluminescent wire on and off, and a circuit means, said connecting wire connecting the control driver and power source to the flexible electroluminescent wire, thereby allowing for electrical current from the power source to reach the flexible electroluminescent wire, said lighting arrangement being attached to the item,

said item having an outer portion and a plurality of seams,

wherein the flexible electroluminescent wire is attached to the outer portion of the item with the flexible electroluminescent wire attaching means.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the circuit means further comprises a function interface including means for causing the flexible luminescent wire to switch on and off intermittently in a random or a predetermined pattern.
15. The method of claim 14, wherein the control driver further comprises a time-out switch, wherein the current is terminated after a set period of time by the operation of the time-out switch, thereby conserving both the power source 9 and the life of the flexible electroluminescent wire.
16. The method of claim 15, wherein the flexible electroluminescent wire attaching means is selected from the group consisting of glue, tape, cloth or non-abrasive staples, and stitching.
17. The method of claim 16, wherein the power source is a DC power supply, and the circuit means includes means for converting DC current supplied by the power supply to an AC current and supplying the AC current to the flexible electroluminescent wire.
18. The method of claim 16, wherein the power source is a dry cell battery.
19. The method of claim 16, wherein the power source is a rechargeable battery.
20. The method of claim 16, wherein the flexible luminescent wire is attached to the item along the item's seams.
21. The method of claim 16, wherein the item is a backpack.
22. The method of claim 16, wherein the item is a waist pack.
23. The method of claim 16, wherein the item is an article of clothing.
24. The method of claim 23, wherein the article of clothing is a jacket.